



Match Report

Opponent: Ohio State University

Date: 9 Apr 06

Match: Navy 19 OSU 6

With Ohio State's victory over Buffalo, the final match of the 2006 Cherry Blossom Tournament was a rematch of the 19 February match won by OSU 15 to 14. Only a few moments into the match, Navy allowed their first points of the tournament when OSU converted a 40 meter penalty from the right sideline. The points seemed to energize Navy. The Midshipmen in Navy Blue controlled both the run of play and the territory for much of the half. No where was this controlled more easily visible then in the scrums. Navy stole the ball from multiple Buckeye scrums while driving their own down the field.

The game continued between Navy's 10 meter line and the OSU 22 right up to the end of the half. Navy finally capitalized on their time in the OSU half when third class center Jared Fogler took a pass from senior scrum half Mac Marrone and broke one tackle to touch down the first Navy try, senior wing Lane Drummond converted (Navy 7 OSU 3). OSU forced a poor clearance from Navy on the ensuing kickoff and used the lineout to get on the board. The ball came off the top and then back to the Buckeye fly half who struck a

beautiful 30 meter drop goal to cut the halftime deficit to one, Navy 7 OSU 6.

The second half played much as the first had with the ball in OSU territory but Navy unable to score. The play began to open up after five minutes as both backlines got more service and began to kick. This however proved to favor the Gold Shirts as the resulting line outs allowed the Navy pack to drive on OSU; on one such lineout and resulting maul the Buckeyes were driven back from their 10 meter line to their 22. It came as no surprise that Navy's next score was another lineout, this one driven in from 10 meters and touched down, Drummond conversion, (Navy 14 OSU 6).

Ohio State's need to score points fast, along with Navy's domination of set pack play, forced Ohio State to open up the kicking game even more. Senior fullback Eric McElvenny had an active afternoon counterattacking the numerous Buckeye kicks. The final score of the day came from such an attack.

McElvenny fielded the kick and quickly swung left to Drummond on the wing. Drummond popped the ball over the OSU fullback and chased for the try

zone only to have the ball bounce back out of try and over his head. The ball, though, was caught by an OSU back on the goal line and, after his momentum carried him into the try zone, touched down for a Navy 5 meter scrum. Navy drove the resulting scrum and senior captain 8 man Jake Womble picked and dove in for the final score, no conversion (Navy 19 OSU 6). The final whistle came immediately after the conversion attempt and crowned Navy 2006 Cherry Blossom Tournament Champions.

Scoring Stats:

Trys

Fogler
(Pack)
Womble

Penalties

None

Conversions made

Drummond x2

Conversions missed

Drummond

Cards

None

~Midn 1/C M. Quin Reporting